

ENERGY TIDBITS

May 2006

Governor Granholm issued an executive directive on April 6 calling for the development of a comprehensive energy plan for the state of Michigan. The plan will outline ways to provide affordable, reliable, safe, and clean electricity for citizens and businesses. Granholm charged Peter Lark, Chairman of the MPSC, with beginning the development of the plan immediately and presenting it to her by year's end. The plan will encourage the state to seek alternative and renewable sources of energy as alternatives to traditional electricity generation. As part of the directive, the Governor has also asked Chairman Lark to establish a renewable energy portfolio standard. The portfolio will encourage alternative energy sources in Michigan by requiring that a certain percentage of the state's energy supply come from renewable sources.

2006 Energy Star Home Builder Grants were awarded to Timm Construction (Alpena), Bazzani Associates (Grand Rapids), Cobblestone Homes (Linwood), Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity, and G. Mack Builder (Morrice) at a April 19 ceremony at Urban Options. DLEG Acting Director Bob Swanson made the awards to the five builders.

Michigan Energy Fair will be held on June 16-18 at the Manistee County Fairgrounds in Onkama. Learn about renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable living in a fun festival atmosphere. Exhibitors and vendors will be on hand to display energy technologies. Educational workshops will be held on a wide variety of topics including green building, solar architecture, small wind systems, energy efficiency upgrades, alternative fuel vehicles, and much more. Live music and local foods will also be featured. www.glrea.org

Consumers Energy Green Generation program is Green-e certified. This means that Consumers Energy's renewable energy has been verified by an independent third party. Participating customers can obtain credit for LEED certification for their green buildings. Approximately 2/3 of the energy for the Green Generation program comes from Michigan wind power. The additional 1/3 comes from local landfill gas-fueled generators. During the first 6 months approximately 1300 customers have enrolled in the program. <http://www.consumersenergy.com/welcome.htm>

Mackinaw City is hosting government officials from around the state on May 18-19 to hear about energy efficiency & renewable energy. <http://www.mackinawcity.org/energybrochure.pdf>

UM Energy Reduction Campaign Posters feature Thomas Edison, Charles Darwin, Hippocrates, Marie Antoinette, George Washington Carver, and Marie Laveau. For example, Carver says "Gas doesn't cost peanuts anymore...so turn down the heat and dress appropriately." To request posters, you can email energyconservation@umich.edu. www.energymanagement.umich.edu

Intermediate Wind Seminar will be held on May 6 at the GLREA Energy Center in Dimondale. Introductory Renewable Energy Seminars will be held on May 13 at the Environmental House in Ann Arbor. Intermediate Photovoltaic Seminar will be held on June 3 at the GLREA Energy Center in Dimondale. www.glrea.org/events/main.html

Solar Hot Water & Pool Heating will be held on May 20 at the Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center in Oxford. Lessons from the Zero Energy Home will be held on June 3 at the Center. Contact: uheac@earthlink.net or 248-693-1021

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ENERGY STAR 2006 Partner of the Year Energy Management Award has gone to Ford Motor for improving energy efficiency in its U.S. facilities by 18% over the past five years, and for implementing geothermal heat pumps, landfill gas reclamation, and wind and solar technology to power manufacturing plants. Green power supplies 5% of Ford's energy needs in the U.S.

League of Michigan Bicyclists has posted a general commuting information page on its website at: <http://www.lmb.org/commute.htm>

Silver Medal in 2006 Energy Value Housing Awards has been given to Riverbend Home and Fireside Home Construction. Some of the energy efficiency features of the home are 1) R-21 spray foam basement wall insulation, 2) R-25 structural insulated panel walls, 3) R-43 structural insulated panel roof, 4) double pane, low-e, gas filled windows with a U value of .28, 5) geothermal heat pump, 6) 80% efficient heat recovery ventilator, 7) HERS rating of 90.3, and 8) zoned HVAC system. <http://www.riverbendtf.com/press/awards/EnergyValueHousingAward.htm>

MSU Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) has recently conducted a study that shows that 86% of Michigan residents surveyed perceive energy costs as a long-term problem and are adjusting their lifestyles to combat increasing prices. People are so concerned about energy costs they're changing how they heat their homes and how far they travel by car, according to the recent State of the State survey. More than 70% of state residents are "very concerned" about rising energy costs and 23.5% are "somewhat" concerned. Nearly half (46.4%) of those interviewed are considering adding insulation or a more efficient heating system. More than 42% said they "very often" make decisions about where they do business, go shopping or go on vacation because of fuel costs, while 36% said they "sometimes" consider the cost of fuel before carrying out these activities. The overall margin of error is plus or minus 3.1%. A presentation on the survey is available if you email me at jhsarve@michigan.gov. <http://www.ippsr.msu.edu/>

20 New E-85 Pumps will be sited at Meijer Fuel Stations including Grand Rapids, Lansing, Jackson, Warren, Rochester, and Detroit areas.

Minister for Sustainable Development Mona Sahlin has declared that Sweden is going to become the first country in the world to break the dependence on fossil energy. Sweden will stop using oil by 2020 and eventually the energy supply of the country will be based on renewable energy only. The goal is to gradually rid the country of gasoline-run cars and oil-heated homes.



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